

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the immediately prior versions of the following claims with the respective following amended versions of those claims. The specific amendments are identified in the Appendix hereto.

1. (Once Amended) Apparatus for conveying ice in the form of a plurality of
2 pieces each having physical characteristics amenable to transport by negative air
pressure pneumatic conveyance, from a source of said ice to a remote location
4 under said negative air pressure, which comprises:
a hollow elongated ice conduit connecting said source of ice and said remote
6 location and providing ice communication therebetween;
a receptor at said remote location for receiving said ice; and
8 a vacuum pump in fluid communication through a vacuum line with said
receptor for withdrawing air from said conduit and creating a vacuum comprising
10 said negative air pressure substantially throughout said conduit, said negative air
pressure causing said ice to traverse said conduit from said source into said
12 receptor.

102. (Once Amended) Apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said receptor at said
2 remote location comprises an air lock device which is connected to said ice conduit
on an upstream side and which has an inlet for pressurized air from a source
4 thereof on a downstream side and another conduit extending from said downstream
side for passage of said pressurized air, such that ice entering said air lock device
6 from said ice conduit passes through said air lock device and is propelled through
said another conduit at high velocity by said pressurized air.

105. (Twice Amended) Apparatus as in Claim 102 wherein that portion of said
2 another conduit downstream of said air lock comprises flexible tubing with an outlet

at an end distal from said air lock device and further comprising directing means for manual, mechanical, pneumatic or electrical positioning of said flexible tubing.

126. (Once Amended) A process for conveying ice in the form of a plurality of pieces each having physical characteristics amenable to transport by negative air pressure pneumatic conveyance, from a source of said ice to a remote location under said negative air pressure, which comprises:

- a. providing a hollow elongated ice conduit connecting said source of ice and said remote location and providing ice communication therebetween; a receptor at said remote location for receiving said ice; and a vacuum pump in fluid communication through a vacuum line with said receptor for withdrawing air from said conduit and creating a vacuum comprising said negative air pressure substantially throughout said conduit, said negative air pressure causing said ice to traverse said conduit from said source into said receptor;
- b. withdrawing air from said receptor and conduit and creating a vacuum comprising said negative air pressure in said receptor and conduit; and
- c. causing said ice to traverse said conduit from said source into said receptor under the influence of said negative air pressure.

REMARKS

In the subject Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 11, 39, 59, 65, 72, 97, 102, 105, 126, 128, 138, 145, 151 and 164 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Wade. He further rejected Claims 65, 97 and 151 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Wade in view of Pink et al. He also rejected Claims 105 and 164 on various grounds under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and remarks herein avoid and/or traverse these rejections.

As stated extensively in the Specification and required by the claims, Applicants' system, unlike any prior art systems, operates to convey ice from source to terminal